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Identical letters dated 28 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement dated 20 March 2001 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Guinea following the decision by the Government of Liberia declaring the Ambassador of Guinea in Monrovia persona non grata (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and the statement distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) François L. **Fall**
Ambassador

01-30935 (E) 280301 280301

Annex to the identical letters dated 28 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea

The Ministry at the Presidency in charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Guinea has just been apprised by the Liberian Government of its decision to declare the Ambassador of Guinea in Monrovia persona non grata, reduce by half the Mission's staff, restrict the staff's movements to a radius of 30 kilometres and transfer, within a period of one month, the Chancellery and the Embassy residence to places that have not yet been determined.

The Ministry at the Presidency in charge of Foreign Affairs points out that the Liberian Government had decided earlier, on 18 January 2001, to withdraw the request for accreditation of its new Ambassador in Guinea, lower the level of its diplomatic representation to the rank of Chargé d'affaires and reduce its diplomatic staff posted to Conakry.

This new decision by the Liberian Government serves to further highlight its responsibility in the acts of barbarous aggression which Guinea has been undergoing since 1 September 2000. It demonstrates once again Liberia's determination to treat with disdain all current international and subregional initiatives aimed at restoring peace, security and a climate of trust among the three countries of the Mano River Union.

Indeed, this act has occurred at a time when hope for a rapprochement between the two countries has arisen as a result of the visit to Guinea on 19 March 2001 by His Excellency Mr. Olesegun Obasanjo, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the important United Nations mission led by Mr. Ibrahima Fall, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

The Guinean Government deplores this attitude on the part of the Liberian authorities, which causes harm to the fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Taking note of this regrettable decision by the Liberian Government, the Guinean Government reiterates its determination to remain faithful to its resolute policy of working relentlessly to strengthen relations between the Guinean and Liberian peoples and expresses its readiness to support any initiative helping to bring about a peaceful resolution of this situation in respect for its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Minister

Conakry, 20 March 2001